

REMARKS

Claims 16-35 are pending in the present application.

1. Restriction Requirement

According to the Office, Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. Sections 121 and 372 among the claims based on the following Groups:

- 1) Claims 16-28 and 30-35, drawn to a composition;
- 2) Claim 29, drawn to a non-woven having skin-friendly finish; and
- 3) Claim 30, drawn to a finished nonwoven.

According to the Office, Restriction is proper because, "The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the common technical feature in all groups is a composition comprising a fatty acid ester, a fatty alcohol, and a crystallization accelerator. Vega... teaches a composition comprising a fatty acid, a fatty alcohol, and a crystallization accelerator (see examples 1-6)."

In compliance with the Requirement, Applicants elect Claims 16-28 and 30-35 to the composition (Group I) for prosecution on the merits. Applicants expressly retain all rights in the non-elected subject matter.

2. Election of Species

According to the Examiner, "This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT

Rule 13.1. The species are as follows:

Group 1 – one compound c) from claims 21, 22, 33."

In compliance with 37 CFR 1.146, Applicants elect the following species of compound c) of the claims:

1) the polyvinyl stearyl ether of Claim 22.


All claims of the present application read on the elected species of Claim 22, with the exception of Claims 21 and 33.

Applicants note that upon the allowance of a generic claim, additional claims to the other species in dependent claim format will be considered.

In the next Office Action, Applicants would kindly appreciate acknowledgement of their claim of foreign priority in the "Office Action Summary" at Box 12.

Favorable consideration and an action on the merits are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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